



CONNECTICUT  
HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION

**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, March 20, 2013**

**SB 1038, An Act Concerning The Definition Of Surgery**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 1038, An Act Concerning The Definition Of Surgery**. CHA opposes the bill.

The bill seeks to establish a new definition of surgery. A change to the definition of surgery along the lines suggested would cause a significant, if not extreme, shift in the healthcare delivery system in Connecticut, and potentially across the region. It would drastically affect all hospital and outpatient surgical facility personnel and staff. More importantly, patients and the community would be substantially affected.

Connecticut hospitals employ or utilize a significant number of licensed healthcare professionals including physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, and other allied health professionals. The term surgery is currently used in more than 100 sections of the Connecticut General Statutes. To define surgery, it is essential that each and every use of the word be reviewed. This new definition will impact various licensed practitioners as well as the delivery of care to hospital patients. In addition, a change of this magnitude will require that hospital policies and procedures be changed.

In 2012, the Connecticut chapter of the American College of Surgeons submitted a scope of practice request to the Department of Public Health for consideration of changing the definition of surgery in the statute, but the request was not among those taken up for review. CHA urges the proponents to again submit this proposal through the Department of Public Health's scope of practice review process, where each of these important issues can be fully researched and vetted by all interested parties.

Should the Committee wish to move the bill forward, we respectfully request that we be able to work with the Committee and interested parties to refine the language of SB 1038 to ensure a full discussion surrounding the more than 100 uses of the word in the statutes.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.